

"Mechanics, then?" laconically added he, with a laudable spirit of investigation. [Mechanics means blacksmith in the mountain lingo.]

"No, sir," said the Doctor, "I am an author, he makes books."

"He was innumerable—'Pretty considerable trade in books in the settlements, stranger? said he.

"The Doctor and I both laughed outright at this odd reception of authorship, and old Jack was silenced.

"I bring this, the daughter, a good-looking girl of some 17 or 18 summers, saluted us with some folks, set up to supper? I looked round for something to set up to, but in vain. There was nothing in the remotest degree resembling a table, and no plates, glasses, or cutlery. The old man, however, turned an inquiring face to the Doctor, but he seemed to be pursuing an investigation similar to my own.

"Where do you want to set up to?" said he.

"Oh! I see you are the stranger's isn't used to us! What do we do here?"

"He sat down, and the daughter soon came toward us, dandling a huge round cake, made of pounded corn, upon her hands, tossing it up at inch or two and catching it, and then tossing it again to keep it from falling into her hands. Put your knees together, and sit to the Doctor. I passed the cake, and received the same upon my knees, where, for a moment or two, he kept it dancing as with a skill, and, stopping before the ill-fated Doctor, she poured the contents, which consisted of short, white, broken, fine, innumerable, tasteless, and rather disgusting, Irish potatoes out of the ashes, she tumbled them in a pile on the floor between us. And this constituted the supper! We broke off pieces of the bread from around the edges, and took the bacon and potatoes in our fingers as best we might, not knowing what else to do. In fact, by our host of that amount and veritable aphorism, that fingers was made before knives and forks!"

"After supper, a batch of straw and corn shocks was thrown into the corner, and a couple of bear traps were set upon the floor. What traps?"

"Had it been a great deal worse, we could have slept upon it, for our journey had fatigued us no little. After a breakfast the next morning, differing but little from the supper of the night before, we prepared to start. Our host followed us to the field where our horses had been put, and demanded of the Doctor his bill for medical services.

"'Why?' said the Doctor, 'where's the use of charging you anything, you would not be able to pay it?'

"'May be I wouldn't,' said old Jack, and he displayed a roll of bills that could not have amounted to less than a hundred dollars.

"This brought forth from the Doctor a pretty severe lecture, addressed to old Jack, the impetuosity of keeping his family and living in such a place, a desolate mountain, where he was abundantly able to provide them with plenty of comforts.

"'Ef it's good enough for me, I reckin you hain't no right to object to it,' said the old fellow, very firmly.

"He paid his bill without a word of objection, and we left him alone in his glory.

"This is a long story, and perhaps a stupid one, but it has at least the merit of being true; and I tell it to you, not with a view to interest or amuse you, but to give you a key to our information in regard to the denizens of these mountain fastnesses. The Doctor assures me that there are many families in this country (—Ky.) even worse off than old Jack — I flattered myself that I had travelled pretty extensively, and had seen a good deal of the country that it seemed to this country; but I find there are more things in heaven and earth than were dreamed of in my philosophy."

THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, JULY 27, 1848.

"The reader will rejoice to see that we have resumed on our first page the publication of Margaret Smith's Diary and Sketches of Modern Reformers.

"C.S. We are in the habit, when pressed by want of time, of condensing for our paper the various recent reports of Congresses in the Baltimore Sun and Clipper. Many thanks to them.

THE GREAT MOVEMENT.

Maryland is moving. (See another column.) Virginia will soon follow. In Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Indiana, Illinois, Free Soil Conventions are called. Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the rest of the States, will soon be active. We had recorded two columns of movements, but have no room for them.

"We have not heretofore encouraged subscriptions to our paper for less than a year, but the present state of political affairs, the importance of a wide diffusion of Anti-Slavery truths, and the earnest request of numerous friends, now induces us to announce that, until otherwise noticed, we will furnish the *Era*, to those who cannot subscribe for a longer period, six months for one dollar, as usual, in advance.

We accompany this offer with the expression of an earnest hope, that, where it is practicable, subscriptions will be sent for a year.

PORTRAIT OF JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

There is now before us a portrait of the late JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, engraved by J. Andrews, from a picture by G. P. A. Healy. It represents Mr. Adams as he appeared before his prostration by paralysis. The position is easy and natural; the likeness wonderfully striking and impressive. It is by far the most faithful and pleasing portrait of him that we have seen. As a work of art, it could scarcely be excelled, the engraver having come as near representing the living flesh and its habiliments, and the soul's expression, as is within the scope of human skill.

Mr. Snow, the publisher, who remains a few days at the Capitol, has copies on hand for purchasers.

OREGON, CALIFORNIA, AND NEW MEXICO.

The public generally are not aware of the amount or character of population in the Territories of the United States. From authentic sources we have learned the following facts:

A report of Lieutenant Howison, of the United States navy, containing the results of an examination of the Territory of Oregon in the year 1846, printed by the House of Representatives during its present session, states the entire population of that territory, exclusive of thoroughbred Indians, at 9,000—7,000 being natives of the United States. The probability is that the number, from accretions since then, has reached nearly 15,000. Some thirty blacks, and double the number of Sandwich Islanders, were included in the number. The Constitution of the Territory makes the male descendants of a white man over twenty-one, no master of what colored woman begotten, eligible for any office in the Territory.

In the memoir of Dr. Wishman, printed by the Senate during the present session, the whole population of New Mexico, it is said, was, in 1790, according to the census, 30,953; in 1833, it was calculated to amount to 52,360. In 1842, it was estimated at 57,926; and at present, he says, it is 70,000. One-half of these probably belong to the white race. Under the Mexican Government, the rulers of the Territory were a Governor and a legislative power, (Junta Departamental.) But the authority of the Central Government was lightly felt, and the people were in the habit of revolutionizing.

The inhabitants of California rank higher in the scale of civilization than the people of New Mexico. Edward Bryant, formerly the editor of a Lexington paper, in Kentucky, late Alcalde of San Francisco, who has just published the results of his examination of California in 1846—7, furnishes many interesting statements in relation to the population and resources of that country. Mr. Clayton, last Saturday, very confidently asserted that the great majority of the people belonged to the colored race, so that to confer upon them the right of suffrage, might result in their sending a Slave to Congress—and how would the Senator from Maine (Mr. Hinman) like that? We say nothing of the Senator grandeur of such an argument, but we would suggest to Mr. Clayton the propriety of being a little more careful when dealing with facts. The extract from the official returns of the population of California is given in Bryant's book:

"In 1831, the white population throughout Alta California did not exceed 4,500, while the Indians of the two-out-mines amounted to 19,000. In 1842, the former had increased to 7,000, and the latter had decreased to about 5,000.

"An Attorney and Marshal provided for

"The permanent population," says Mr. Bryant, "of that portion of Upper California situated between the Sierra Nevada and the Pacific is approximately 23,000. Of this number 8,000 are Hispano-American, 5,000 foreigners, chiefly from the United States, and 12,000 christianized Indians."

It seems, then, that when Bryant was there, the white population amounted to 13,000, or a majority of the whole. Since then, the large emigration from this country, with the natural increase, has doubtless carried the white population up to fifteen thousand.

No excuse, it will be perceived, can be assigned by Mr. Clayton, for depriving these people of all right of self-government, and placing them, as his bill proposes to place them, under the despotism of five Presidential agents. The bill appears still more outrageous when we advert to the character of the people. "Physically and intellectually," says Mr. Bryant, "the men probably are superior to the same race further south, and inhabiting the countries contiguous to the city of Mexico." Again: "The men, as a general fact, are well made, with pleasing, sprightly countenances, possessing much grace and ease of manner, and vivacity of conversation."

Again: "They are obedient to their magistrates, and in all disputed cases decided by them, acquiesce without uttering a word of complaint.

They have been accused of treachery and insincerity. Whatever may have been the grounds for this accusation in particular instances, I know not; but, judging from my own observation and experience, they are as free from these qualities as our own people."

This is the testimony of an enlightened citizen of a slaveholding State, and a functionary of our Government.

"Will any man now be good enough to say, whether a single reason can be assigned for stripping these people of the right of suffrage, and placing them under a Despotism, except the fixed purpose of Mr. Calhoun that there shall be no legislation by the People of the Territory until a sufficient number of slaveholders have gone there from the United States. Why is this? The slaveholders care nothing about Oregon; California and New Mexico they have determined to make their own Government.

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